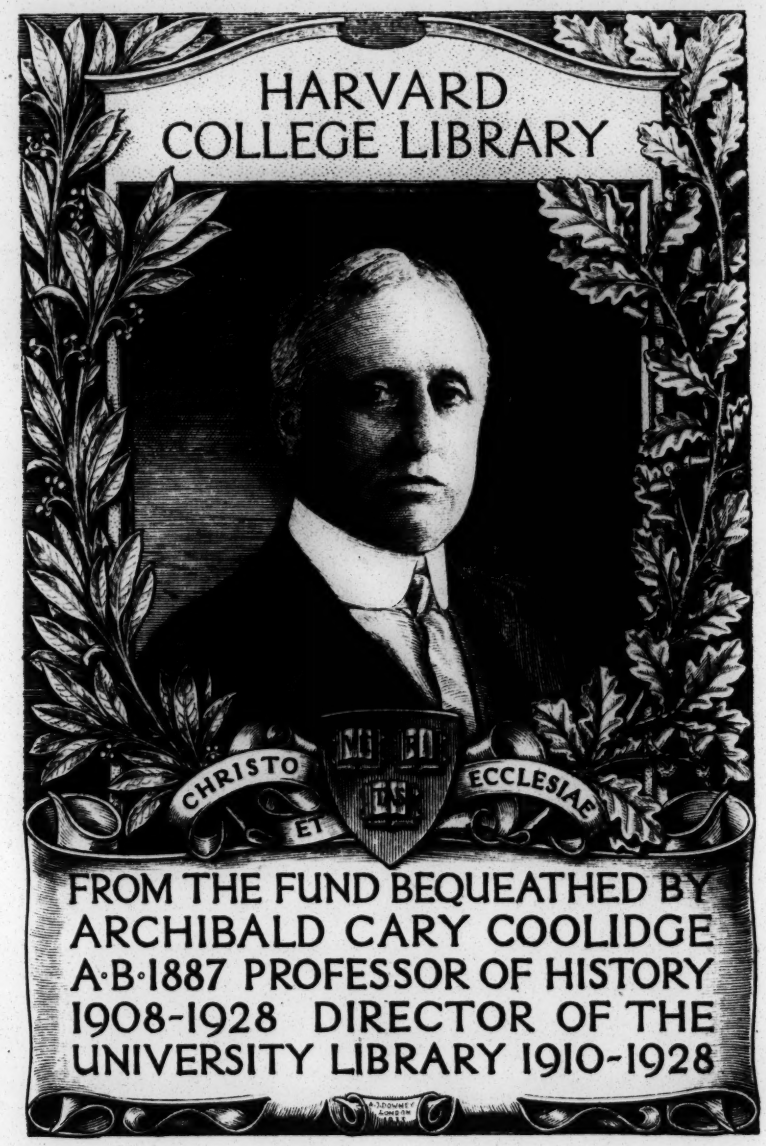
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THE ANSWERS COMMANDED BY His MAJESTY

To be given by the Right honourable

The Earl of

NOTTINGHAM

L d H. Chancellour of

ENGLAND;

Upon Several

Addresses presented to

His Majestie

In Council at

HAMPTON-COURT,

The 19th of May, 1681.

EDINBURGH,

Re-printed by the Heir of *Andrew Anderson*, Printer to His most Sacred Majesty; *Anno Dom.* 1681.

THE

ANSWERS

Commanded by

HIS MAJESTY

To be given by the Right Honourable, the Earl of NOTTINGHAM, *Lord High Chancellour of* ENGLAND, *upon ſeveral* Addreſſes *preſented to His* MAJESTY *in Council, at* Hamptoun Court,

The 19th. of May, 1681.

HIs Majeſtie hath conſidered the ſeveral *Addreſſes* which have been now preſented to Him, and commands me to return theſe *Anſwers* to them.

Firſt, I am to let the *Commiſſioners of the Lieutenancy* know, That His Majeſty doth very well accept and approve the Addreſs they have made, and thinks that Zeal with which they have expreſs'd their Loyalty and good Affections to His Perſon and Government. to be at this time a very ſeaſonable piece of duty and Service, and doth heartily Thank them for it.

To the *Gentlemen of the Borough of Southwark*, His Majeſty doth not onely give His hearty Thanks, but declares Himſelf to be extremely well pleaſed with the Form of their Addreſs, and thinks they proceed upon the trueſt and the ſureſt Grounds that can be, when they lay it down for a Maxim, *That ſteady Loyalty is the onely Foundation of true Felicity.*

And I am to aſſure you Both, That His Majeſty will always retain a Gracious Remembrance of your good Services, and that you ſhall not fail to find the Effects of it, whenever you ſhall apply your ſelves to His Majeſtie for His Favour.

As for that other Addreſs, which ſtiles it ſelf, *The humble Petition of the L. Mayor, Aldermen, and Commons of the City of London in Common Councel aſſembled*, and which is very much diſcredited by theſe other Addreſſes which accompany it, *I* have many things in Command to ſay to it,

The King did expect, that a Petition which ſeems to come from the Mayor, Aldermen, and Common-council of the City of *London*, ſhould have conſiſted of ſuch Matters only, as relate to the particular Concerns of the City: at leaſt He thought He ſhould have found in it ſome due acknowledgement of His continual Care in Preſerving and Improving your Trade, and Supporting your Liberties and Franchiſes.

But, contrary to His Expectation, and (as He thinks) to your Duty, He finds this Petition medling with *Matters of State* and *Government*, Things which do in no ſort appertain to you, but are quite out of your Sphere: And if this ſhould paſs without Reproof, the meaneſt Corporation, nay the meaneſt Village in *England*, will have as much right to be medling in theſe Matters, as you have.

The only End and Uſe of Common-councils in *London*, is for the Buſineſs of *London*; you are not the Common-councel of the Nation, and yet you behave your ſelves ſo, as if you thought you were.

But the King doth not look upon this Petition as proceeding for the *unanimous* Conſent of the Common-Councel; He is very well informed that it paſt there by an inconſiderable Majority, but *fourteen* Votes in the whole, and againſt the Senſe of the Major part of the Court of Aldermen, and His Majeſty hath a great Value and Kindneſs for the Honeſty and Diſcretion of thoſe who diſſented from it. And He looks upon the reſt as miſled by ſome ill Men, who make it their buſineſs to begin that Confuſion in the City, which they ſee no hopes of beginning elſewhere.

And the King does not believe that the Matter of this Petition was ever well Conſidered by you, becauſe He finds in it ſo many Preſumtions and Miſtakes.

It Prays the *Calling of a Parliament* at a time when the King hath already Declared to all the World, *That there ſhall be frequent Parliaments*, and ſo ſeems to Doubt of that Aſſurance which all good Subjects give to the King moſt humble Thanks for.

It Prays a *Continuation of that Parliament* till *all* their Buſineſs be diſpatcht, and ſo breaks in upon the higheſt Truſt which is lodged in the King, to whom alone it belonges to Appoint the Times and Seaſons.

It deprives the King of the whole Honour of His Grace and Goodneſs in Calling a Parliament, by making it ſeem to be the effect of your Importunity.

So that nothing in the World could be more contrary to the ſeeming Ends of this Addreſs, then the Addreſs it ſelf.

And beſides all this, the King takes notice of another *Expreſſion* in your Addreſs, wherein you pretend to be much troubled, that certain *Pamphlets* have lately come out, which ſpeak very diſhonourably of the Proceedings of the two laſt Parliaments.

Now the King would have been glad, you had mentioned what Pamphlets you mean, leſt otherwiſe the World ſuppoſe you to have a *ſecret meaning* in this general Expreſſion; ſuch a meaning as no Honeſt man or good Subject dares own.

And the King would have been glad too, that you had likewiſe taken Notice of ſuch other *Pamphlets* as defame His Majeſties *Perſon* and *Government*, and Libel all the Orders and Conſtitutions both of *Church* and *State*.

But it ſeems your Curioſity hath been very great to look after ſome kind of Pamphlets, but your Diligence hath been very little when you ſhould have lookt after the reſt, and have puniſht the Seditious.

Notwithſtanding all this, the King is ſtill of Opinion, That there are but very few among you, who deſerve theſe Reproofs, He is not only Confident of the Affections of the City in general, as knowing that no Prince ever deſerved better of His People; But He believes the greateſt part of the Court of Aldermen, and of the Common-Councel too, if they had all been preſent, to be very much addicted to His Service.

If therefore there be any among you who ſeeks to make Diviſions, He hopes you will mark them, and avoid them, and that you will *Study to be quiet* and to do *your own Buſineſs*; For the King hath ſet His Heart upon this City to do them all the good He can, and 'tis only the Peace of his Government which can bring you any Proſperity.

The King therefore recommends it to you, and requires it of you, to take effectuall Care that there be no kind of Diſturbance or Diſorder among you.

F I N I S.